

**SPECIAL MEETING of the Burrillville Town Council held, October 16, 2013 at 6:10 P.M. at the Burrillville Town Building, 105 Harrisville Main St., Harrisville, RI for and within the Town of Burrillville**

**PRESENT: Council President Nancy F. Binns, Councilors Wallace F. Lees, Edward J. Blanchard, Kimberly Brissette Brown, John F. Pacheco III, David J. Place and Stephen N. Rawson**

**MEMBERS ABSENT: None**

**Relative to recognizing the career and retirement of Colonel Bernard E. Gannon, retired Burrillville Chief of Police**

**Family, friends and town associates of Colonel Bernard E. Gannon gathered to recognize Colonel Gannon. Michael C. Wood, Town Manager, spoke of Colonel Gannon's successful tenure with the Town, commending and thanking Colonel Gannon and his family. Council President Nancy F. Binns commented on Colonel Gannon's achievements, extending the appreciation of the Town Council and town residents. Colonel Gannon's career was proclaimed:**

**Burrillville Town Council**

**Proclamation**

**Whereas, Colonel Bernard E. Gannon was born on Christmas Eve 1935 and raised in East Providence, Rhode Island; and**

**Whereas, Colonel Bernard E. Gannon served four years in the U.S. Navy, after which he attended the 21st police academy, graduating in 1958 and then became a Providence Police Officer; and**

**Whereas, Colonel Bernard E. Gannon met Joan Maine at Roger Williams Park, experiencing what has been described as “Love at First Sight”; and the couple married on November 12, 1960; and**

**Whereas, The Gannons were blessed with four children, Danny, Bernie Gannon, Jr., Kelly and Michael; and**

**Whereas, Colonel Bernard E. Gannon spent time in every division in the nearly 500-member Providence Police Department, making Sergeant in 1968, Lieutenant in 1977, Captain in 1981 and Chief in March of 1991, retiring in 1995; and**

**Whereas, Colonel Bernard E. Gannon left retirement to become Burrillville Police Chief in August 1997 where, among his objectives, was to keep pace with a growing community; and**

**Whereas, Colonel Bernard E. Gannon was proud to send two sworn officers to the FBI Academy in Quantico, VA, a program from which he had graduated during his career; and**

**Whereas, in Burrillville in 1998, Colonel Bernard E. Gannon oversaw the establishment of the Burrillville Municipal Court, which has brought efficiency and convenience to the department as well as the citizenry; and**

**Whereas, the Burrillville Town Council shares Colonel Bernard E. Gannon’s pride in the citizen programs instituted during his tenure, including B-SAFE (Burrillville Security & Awareness for Elderly), COPS that Care, the Ridealong with Police Officers, B-EASY**

**(Burrillville Eliminates Alcohol Sales to Youth), Police Officers as Junior Achievement teachers and the very successful Citizens Police Academy; and**

**Whereas, throughout Colonel Bernard E. Gannon's term in Burrillville, the department has actively sought grants to support their many programs, garner hundreds of thousands of dollars through grant programs which include Homeland Security Grant Awards, Legislative Grants, a Technology Improvement Grant through the COPS Office and the U.S. Department of Justice and the Bullet Proof Vest Grant; and**

**Whereas, Colonel Bernard E. Gannon lead the Burrillville Police Department through the design phase ultimate expansion and renovation of the police station, including a new municipal court room and training areas; and**

**Whereas, under Colonel Bernard E. Gannon's guidance, the department also experienced improvements in communication, including acquiring use of the former Buck Hill Fire Tower to improve radio communications and installation of a Reverse 911 system [Code RED], to provide a method of communicating with town residents during emergency situations; and**

**Whereas, after 16 years of dedicated leadership in the Burrillville Police Department, Colonel Bernard E. Gannon decided to retire once again to share some well-deserved relaxation and recreation with his wife Joan and their family.**

**Now therefore be it resolved that we, the Town Council of the Town of**

**Burrillville, do hereby offer heartfelt thanks to Colonel Bernard E. Gannon for his hard work and devotion and commend him on a job well done.**

**Be it further resolved that we, the Town Council of the Town of Burrillville, do hereby extend its very best wishes to Colonel and Mrs. Bernard E. Gannon, and wish them great joy and happiness in all their future endeavors.**

**VOTED to adjourn at 6:20 P.M.**

**Motion by Councilor Wallace F. Lees. Seconded by Councilor Stephen N. Rawson. The vote was unanimous by the six members present. Voting in favor of the motion were Council President Nancy F. Binns and Councilors Edward J. Blanchard, Kimberly Brissette Brown, John F. Pacheco III, David J. Place and Stephen N. Rawson. Councilor Wallace F. Lees was excused.**

**The meeting was recorded.**

**Louise R. Phaneuf, Town Clerk**